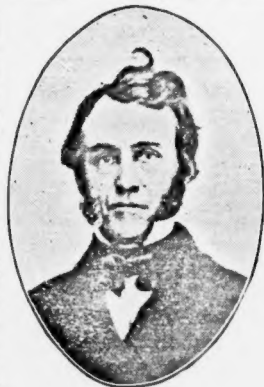


Wurts, at that time President of the company. Soon after he was appointed assistant to James Archbald, the general superintendent, serving in that capacity until Mr. Archbald removed to Scranton when Mr. Wurts assumed entire charge of the company's affairs in this locality.

The first great strike at the company's collieries took place in 1853, when the miners made a demand for an advance of two and one-half cents per ton. The regular price for mining at that time was 35 cents. After several weeks of idleness the miners resumed work upon the promise of Mr. Wurts that the advance asked for



WILLIAM BALL,
First Master Mechanic for D. & H. Gravity
Railroad.

would be given them when operations were resumed. This was the one condition fixed by Superintendent Wurts. The men took him at his word and had no reason to regret it. During his residence here Mr. Wurts built the house and reclaimed the grounds now owned and occupied by Hon. E. E. Hendrick. Mr. Wurts died at Bar-Harbor, Maine, August 11th, 1892, aged sixty-nine years.

FIRST MINING.

A report from Prof. Silliman, of Yale College, and his associates Prof. Hitchcock and Geo. Jones, to B. Dorrance, Garrick Mallory and C. D. Shoemaker, committee upon the Anthracite coal deposits of the Lackawanna and Wyoming valleys in 1830, says: "The great works at Carbondale at the head of the valley are wrought like those at Mauch-Chunk as an open quarry. There is of course the greatest facility in coming at the coal, and the water subsides into lower situations. They are now beginning to mine into the hill between roof and pavement."

Again he more fully describes the strata of the Carbondale mine, which was an opening first made here by Archibald Law opposite what was then known as 'the spring or well' as follows:

1. Soil.
2. Dark earth, three feet.
3. Loose slate, five feet.
4. Broken coal, called here second quality, not considered fit for market, two feet.
5. Good coal, called first quality, six feet.
6. Coal of still superior quality, one foot.
7. First and second quality intermingled, three feet
8. Coal, very good quality, four feet.

9. Good coal with strata of slate intermingled, six feet, twenty feet have thus been wrought for market.

10. Firm slate, with vegetable impressions and pyrites; thickness not known. About three and a half acres of the bed have been removed. The mining (including also the removal of the rubbish above and intermixed) costs the company about 75 cents per ton. They now offer their coal at Kingston on the Hudson, at \$6 per ton. The cost of transportation thence to New York is 50 cents per ton.

FIRST NATIVES.

Mrs. A. M. Atkinson, who is said to be the first child born in Carbondale, was buried in Honesdale, December 6th, 1889. Her maiden name was Mahala Frisbie, and the date of her birth March 17th, 1823. Her father, Enos Frisbie, a lumberman, was one of the pioneers of the valley, before this city bore its present name. Helen Blanchard was the first child born after the town was named Carbondale. She married J. P. Foster and died in Des Moines, Iowa, in 1884.

OUR FIRST BAND.

The first band in this entire section was what was known as the Hetherbee band. It was organized in 1839 and in '40 was in its prime. During the Harrison and Tyler campaign and those which followed a few



J. J. HETHERBEE,
The First Bandmaster.

years later it played a conspicuous part, its services being in demand in all towns in the vicinity. Jas. J. Hetherbee was the leader, and the organization was kept up until 1860. Clarionets prevailed as the leading instruments, and in brass instruments key bugles carried the air. Of the original membership but one player remains. He is D. G. Smith, of this city, and still has in his possession the E flat bugle that led the band in

1839. In 1844 the band made a week's tour of the surrounding towns, playing in Montrose, Tunkhannock, etc. W. P. E. Morris, who kept a livery here, was always engaged to drive the band on their excursions. On one occasion, during a Masonic parade here, the Salem avenue bridge gave way as the band was crossing, and the organization narrowly escaped being wiped out of existence.